

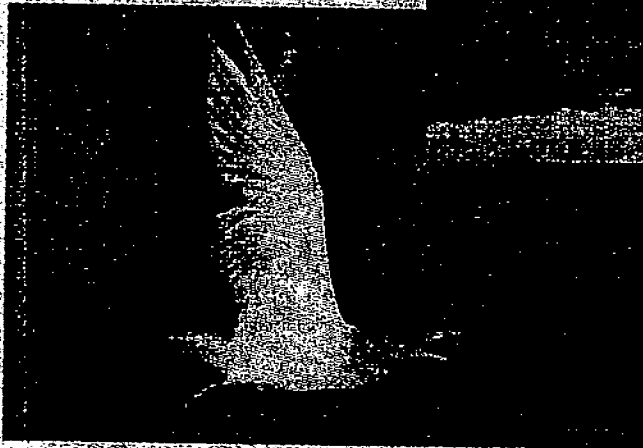
DUXBURY BEACH; AUTHORS

Duxbury beach, by the book

The young harbor seals that make their way to our shores in the fall and winter originate well to our north. Generally the older seals stay in the northern waters, and the seals that we see are three years old or less.



In the winter the immaculate white head of the breeding herring gull turns a dusky and streaked gray. The gulls that nest on Clark's Island, both great black-backed and herring gulls, utilize the extensive flats in Duxbury Bay.



New work illustrates beauty and history of town treasure

By Andria Farrell
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The "ribbon of sand" that separates the land from the sea has transformed the once shipbuilding town of Duxbury into the agricultural and summer getaway that has made it flourish for centuries. The Duxbury Beach Preservation Society has created the *Duxbury Beach Book* in honor of beautiful beach.

The hard-cover book explores the wonders of Duxbury Beach from the ownership to the agriculture, wildlife, and wild weather that have shaped the focal point of this water town. Going back to the beginning, each of the nine chapters delves into the wonders of the beach beautifully illustrated with photos taken by local photographers, map drawings, and historical photos that capture the beach from then to now.

"The narrow, 6-mile-long ribbon of

SEE DUXBURY, PAGE 5

More pages like this can be found in the *Duxbury Beach Book*

COURTESY MARGARET KEARNEY

April 27, 2007
Reporter

Reporter,
April 27, 2001

FROM DUXBURY, PAGE 1

sand known as Duxbury Beach first appeared about 4,000 years ago and has been growing, shrinking, and shifting in response to wind and waves ever since," the book begins.

Margaret Kearney of the Duxbury Beach Preservation Society says the plan to create this book about the beach has been in the back of her mind for years, and she is very excited that it is finally completed and available for residents. She said this book was created to inform and educate people on some of the history of the beach they may not be aware of, like who owns the beach. Many people believe that the town of Duxbury owns the beach; actually the Duxbury Beach Reservation owns the

beach.

In 1919, after the last member of the Wright family in Duxbury died, Fredrick Pratt purchased the beach for \$15,000 from the Wright estate. Pratt, and a group of shareholders bought the rights to the beach and set up an association that would protect and preserve the 4.5 miles of beach.

One chapter of the book is dedicated to the three massive storms that have ripped apart Duxbury Beach through the years, the Port Gale storm in 1898, the Blizzard of 1978, and the No Name or Perfect storm in 1991. After the No Name storm, the Duxbury Beach Preservation Society was formed to raise funds to protect the beach and coastline from deteriorating after storms. Most recently after the

Nor'easter over Patriots Day weekend, the beach experienced approximately \$5,000 of damage, which requires the removal of debris and redistribution of sand. The society has continually raised funds to repair the beach, as storms, similar to last weeks, get more intense and more frequent.

Over the past two years, members of the preservation society, beach enthusiasts, and historians have been collecting data, and photos for the compilation of their much-anticipated coffee table. The aesthetically crafted book not only provides interesting facts, it also creates a timeline that runs throughout the bottom of the book linking history to Duxbury Beach.

"We did this book because we

love the beach," Kearney said. "I have had in my mind for many years, I have been a part of the beach reservation in one form or another for 20 years."

In a town where the sea and the beach is vital the community, the preservation society has create a keepsake for all residents, which will also aid in its preservation.

"The book has something in it for everyone, photos, interesting text, history, genealogy, storm stories," Kearney said. "All the profit will go to the preservation of the beach and the storm damage fund."

A book-release party and book signing will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. May 6 at the Duxbury

Senior Center, 10 Mayflower St. Copies of the book will be for sale. Refreshments will be served. The *Duxbury Beach Book* will be available at the Westwinds Bookshop after May 6, and online at www.duxburybeach.com.